

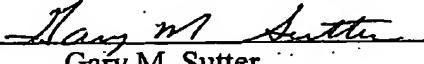
REMARKS

It is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 68 and dependent claims 69-75 are novel and nonobvious over the prior art. Bottenberg discloses a composition containing precooked starch and polyacrylic acid used as a bioadhesive carrier for drugs. Duerr discloses a composition made by cooking a starch and mixing the cooked starch with a copolymer, which is used as an adhesive to make paperboard. Leake discloses a composition made from cooked starch mixed with a polymer, which is used as an adhesive to make paperboard. Taggart discloses adding starch to a paper furnish and then separately adding CMC to the furnish, to increase the bond strength of the paper. These patents neither teach nor suggest a dry clarifying aid product comprising a dry mixture of starch and polymer that is suitable for mixing with a liquid and then cooking to make a clarifying aid.

WO 03/042295 A1 discloses cooking a starch, mixing the cooked starch with a polyacrylamide, and then re-cooking the mixture. There is no suggestion of a dry clarifying aid product comprising a dry mixture of starch and polymer that is suitable for mixing with a liquid and then cooking to make a clarifying aid. There is no suggestion at all to provide a product that comprises a mixture of starch and polymer.

It is believed that the amended and new claims are patentable in view of the prior art. However, if any questions should arise with respect to the amendments or the above remarks; or if the Examiner has any comments or suggestions to place the claims in better condition for allowance, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' attorney at (419) 255-5900.

Respectfully submitted,


Gary M. Sutter
Reg. No. 31,574

MacMillan, Sobanski & Todd, LLC
One Maritime Plaza, Fourth Floor
720 Water Street
Toledo, Ohio 43604
(419) 255-5900